

STATE OF MONTANA



ELEVENTH REPORT

of the

State Forester

and

State Park Director

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Forestry Building
State University
Missoula, Montana
December 31, 1938

Honorable Roy E. Ayers
Governor of Montana
Helena, Montana

Dear Governor:

Since submitting a preliminary typewritten report to you on October 13, 1937 on the need for state-wide interest and cooperation in the development of the state's recreational resources, I have continued to make a further study of this question. A compilation of the data resulting from this study, in cooperation with the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, School of Journalism of the State University, and the State Highway Commission, is herewith submitted for your information.

Advantage has also been taken of this opportunity, in compliance with the statutes, to present in brief form the activities of the State Forester's Office.

Very respectfully yours,

RUTLEDGE PARKER,
State Forester.



MISSOULIAN



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FOREWORD

Montana has been very neglectful of her unusual opportunities to interest travelers in the beauty of her scenery, the dramatic quality of her history, the grandeur of her forests, the loveliness of her valleys and the charm of her cities.

State pride, traditional hospitality, even the economic urge—any one or all of these motives should have prompted, long ago, some definite steps that would lead the strangers within our gates to familiarize themselves with what Montana has to offer in the way of delightful travel, satisfying recreation and stimulating exploration.

It is the purpose of this discussion to direct the attention of Montana people to the recreational possibilities which may be made available to them with comparatively little effort.

There are many areas in Montana which might easily be developed into happy sanctuaries where the traveler might find rest, refreshment and enjoyment—pleasant breaks in a long journey. Scenic beauty, historic interest, alluring sport and always a state's hospitality would combine to make these wayside pauses—however brief they might be—delightful memories amongst the recollections of a drive across Montana.

These pages outline a plan for adding pleasure and profit to the sojourn of the visitor in Montana. There is so much that might be said conservatively in support of the plan that it has been difficult to present within the limits of these few pages even the outline of the program.

So obvious, however, is the merit of this proposition that it has been possible to present briefly the many arguments in its favor. Space has been given to illustrations which are convincing in themselves. They make clear, in some instances, the opportunity offered by some locations and they show, in other cases, what has been done toward providing little parks which are serving the very purpose which it is desired to make general through the state. The selection of illustrations in these pages has been made with the idea of presenting typical spots. There are thousands more.

The Montana Highway Commission and the United States Forest Service have made an excellent start in this direction. If a statewide system of state parks, historic sites and recreation areas can be developed, the benefit to the state will be inestimable.

Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks are known the world over. Montana should not be content to rest upon the reputation of these famous resorts. The Yellowstone is marvelous, but the Bad Lands near Glendive are also awe-inspiring and who knows much about the formations there? The Little Big Horn's history has drawn thousands to its scene, but how many tourists have ever seen Robbers' Roost or old Hell Gate and learned the stories back of them?

The plan presented here involves effort and expense to carry it to completion. Acquisition, planning and development will require funds, of course, but the expenditure will be justified and the sites can be acquired now at less expense than ever again.

Volunteer service in locating potential areas will accomplish much in the preliminary work. Here is a chance for every Montanan to enlist. Recommendations for sites with the necessary informative details will greatly facilitate the work outlined.

A. L. STONE

Dean of the School of Journalism,
Montana State University

RECREATION IN MONTANA

RECOMMENDATIONS

For the convenience of those who find it impossible to read the following pages, brief recommendations are listed here. It should be emphasized however, that a full understanding of the problems which give rise to these recommendations can only be gained by perusing the narrative and photographs included in this brief report.

In the past two decades, there has been a tremendous growth in demand for recreational facilities by all classes of people, both state residents and outstate visitors. The tourist industry has become third in importance in the state.

The State of Montana should seek to establish a recreational system which will provide adequate facilities for both local people and tourists, to supplement the facilities already provided in National Parks and Forests.

Eastern Montana, with the exception of a few municipal parks is devoid of recreational facilities. The people in this large section of the state, have the same desires and needs for recreation, common to all the state, but the recreational areas must be near at hand to receive the greatest use. In Western Montana, certain parks and waysides easily accessible to the travelling public are needed in addition to present facilities.

The preservation of certain areas of virgin timber along our main highways is a matter of great importance. The state should take steps to acquire and preserve some of these choice areas, which are important recreational resources of the state, while they are available, in their original condition.

Certain areas of great scenic, historic or geological importance should be acquired and preserved as state parks or historic sites, for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.

In order to arrive at a sound recreational plan for the state as a whole, a comprehensive recreation study should be initiated by the state, with the cooperation of federal, state and other agencies. Such a recreational plan should include recommendations for state parks, recreation areas, historic parks, roadside forests, waysides, etc. Since the completion of a recreation study and report involves the cooperation of several public and private agencies and individuals in working out a statewide recreation plan with all its problems, it is apparent that such a study and report should be undertaken by the state at the earliest possible date.

Montana has never passed legislation for the administration and financing of a state park system, as has been done in most other states. The present park law provides no funds or authority for administration of state parks. Morrison Cave State Park, now being developed by the CCC will soon become a responsibility of the state for operation and main-

tenance when it is opened to the public. According to legislation establishing the CCC, the continuance of the present CCC camp at Morrison Cave State Park is contingent on provision being made by the state for adequate maintenance after developments are completed.

Public support of organizations, clubs and individuals is needed to secure the enactment of state park legislation at this session of the legislature. The purpose of this discussion is to present accurate information so that the citizens of the state will become acquainted with the need for a state park program, and give it their active support.

Legislation should include the establishment of a State Park Commission of three members, selected for their experience and active interest in the broad recreational problems of the state. They should be authorized to employ a highly qualified full time State Park Director, with at least ten years experience in state park work; as well as the necessary technical and clerical assistance for proper planning and administration. The assignment of additional CCC camps by the National Park Service is now predicated on the quality of technical planning provided by the state park authority. The State Forester should serve as Executive Secretary to the State Park Commission in order to insure proper coordination with federal and state forest agencies.

The State Park Director should make it his first duty to expedite the completion of a Recreation Study and Report as recommended above.

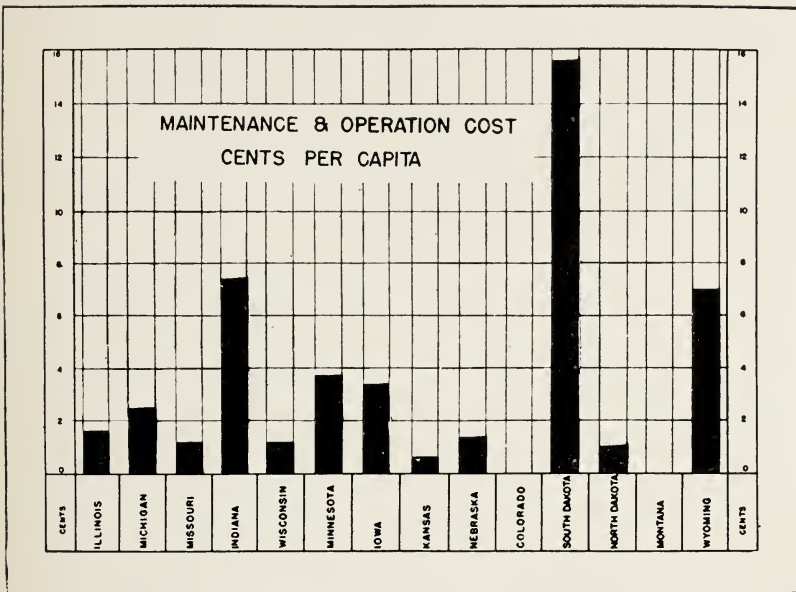
In suggesting an appropriation to put the recommended legislation into effect, it is recognized that existing economic conditions necessitate a very modest beginning. However, it is believed that the small appropriation herein recommended, amounting to about 3 cents per person in the state, would permit a logical beginning on this important problem, which would later result in physical, mental and economic benefit to a large proportion of our citizens.

An appropriation of \$17,290 per year for two years is recommended, to provide a reasonable beginning on a state program, but one which will permit the above recommendation to be put into effect without delay.

These funds are needed for the following purposes:

For salaries and expenses.....	\$10,000
For other temporary field personnel.....	3,390
For equipment and repairs.....	1,900
For acquisition of park lands.....	2,000
<hr/>	
Total.....	\$17,290

The small fund for acquisition is included with the thought that a start should be made, even in a small way, on acquisition of key parcels, which are not available through gift or lease, but which are much needed for intensive recreation areas for the people.



Maintenance and operation cost per capita is computed by dividing the 1937-38 state park operation and maintenance cost by the state population (Bureau of Census, 1930). The per capita expenditure for parks and recreation is in each state a trifling sum, only three states spending more than four cents per capita per year for a facility indispensable to our present standard of living. Although comparative expenditures are noted, the chief value is in showing the infinitesimal amount involved.

A \$17,000.00 park budget for Montana would amount to slightly in excess of three cents per capita. South Dakota in 1937 spent in excess of fifteen cents per capita for State parks, while Wyoming spent nearly seven cents. Other states which appear low on this chart have planned or are arranging to increase their expenditures considerably for this purpose. Three cents per capita in Montana would be slightly in excess of one-tenth of one percent of the total state expenditures.

(Comparative Chart through courtesy of National Park Service prepared for 14 states in Region II)

THE NEED FOR STATE PARKS IN MONTANA

Montana is a land of vast recreational resources. Many of us who, for many years, have lived with these natural beauties of mountains, lakes, waterfalls, fast flowing streams and rivers, buttes, plains, fertile irrigated areas and sites of historic and geologic interest, have come to accept them as more or less a matter of course as natural heritages of our great state.

To many other citizens, who have come here from other states and to the large number of tourists and vacationists who visit us in increasing numbers, these scenic, recreational, historic and geologic features are of tremendous interest and are highly appreciated.

Outdoor recreation in Montana is not a new development. For years, before the advent and widespread use of the automobile for recreational travel, the railroads brought large numbers of vacationists to our national parks, forests, dude ranches and other sites of scenic, historic or geologic interest.

However, the past two decades have witnessed a tremendous increase in recreational travel and widespread use and enjoyment of our recreational resources by both state residents and out-of-state vacationists.

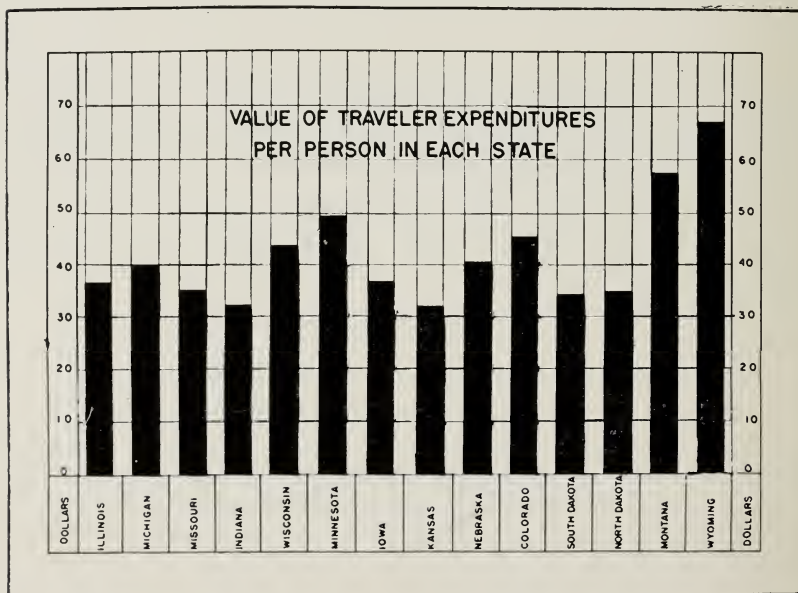
The following statistics illustrate the phenomenal growth of the outdoor recreation movement in Montana:

Glacier National Park showed an increase in attendance from 12,839 visitors in 1916 to 210,072 visitors in 1936. During the same period, Yellowstone National Park recorded an increase in attendance from 35,849 visitors in 1916 to 432,570 people in 1936.

The use of recreational facilities provided in the National Forests of Montana, in a five year period, showed a growth in attendance from 343,870 people in 1933 to 520,650 visitors in 1938, an increase of over 50%.

Accurate records on cars entering the state, compiled by the Montana Highway Department, during recent years indicate that about 90% of such inter-state travel is for recreational and social purposes.

During the season of 1936, 435,000 cars entered the state. Each party was handed a questionnaire card and 25% of these cards were properly filled out and returned. A compilation of this data at the end of the sea-



Value of Traveler Expenditures per person in each state is the money spent during the 1938 travel season for recreation travel divided by the population of the state, indicating the gross value of recreation travel to the citizens of the state. The total recreation travel expenditure for this year was \$5,300,000.00.

Montana can afford, according to this chart, to show a greater interest than almost any other state in the Region in the provision of park facilities for the traveler. These figures, based on 1938 travel, indicate that travel disbursements amounted to \$57.81 for each person in Montana, higher than any state in the Region except Wyoming.

(Comparative Chart through courtesy of National Park Service prepared for 14 states in Region II)

son revealed the following interesting figures, which indicate the importance of the tourist industry to the people of Montana:

Number of cars entering State during year.....	435,000
Average number of persons per car.....	3.25
Average length of stay.....	5.58 days
Average expenditure per person per day.....	\$3.84
Total expenditures by out-of-state tourists.....	\$30,293,400

During the greatest tourist month, July, tourist expenditures in Montana averaged \$127,692 per day. It is hardly necessary to point out that for each additional day that these tourists remain in the state, additional financial benefit is made possible to all the residents of the state who are affected directly or indirectly by the tourist industry.

The Highway Department in its Tourist Survey for 1937, says in this regard, "We wish to call the attention of the people of Montana to the fact that we must, by providing more local attractions, encourage the tourist to spend more time within our State."

Improved roads, widespread use of the automobile, shorter working hours resulting in more leisure time for recreation, improved facilities, both public and private, for the comfort and safety of the recreationist, as well as the educational and publicity programs of the railroads and tourist bureaus, and other factors, have all contributed to a wider appreciation and enjoyment of outdoor recreation in Montana as well as other states.

It is evident that there is a great and growing public demand for additional, improved and accessible recreation facilities which must be met. In addition, certain important scenic, historic and geologic areas should be acquired for the present and future enjoyment of the people, while these sites are still available and unspoiled.

EXISTING FACILITIES NOW PROVIDED

National Parks

The well developed recreational facilities provided for public use at Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks are well known. Many Montana people within a reasonable driving distance of these renowned parks visit them more or less frequently since the entrance permits are good for the entire season. Many other citizens of the state, at some distance from these areas are unable to avail themselves of these facilities because of the expense and time necessary to reach the parks. The drawing power of these national parks for tourists and vacationists from all over the country and the resulting economic benefit to the state through services furnished these visitors is recognized. Additional facilities to better serve the public in these national parks are being developed from year to year.

National Forests

There are over fifteen million acres of National Forest in the twelve Federal forest units of Montana, located largely in the western part of the state. These forests are of great value to the state, since they pre-

PICNIC FACILITIES



Photo courtesy U. S. Forest Service

Right—A Western Montana picnic ground on Swan Lake, maintained by the Forest Service.



Photo courtesy U. S. Forest Service



Photos courtesy Highway Dept.

Right—Cottonwoods provide excellent shade for this wayside camp near Glendive. Increased facilities of the type shown on this sheet are much needed along our highways.



serve in public ownership vast areas of mountain country, rich in scenic beauty. Large areas are included in primeval or wilderness units which are accessible only by foot or pack trails.

A total of 184 camp and picnic grounds with a capacity of 7,829 people have been developed in selected sites which are especially adapted for recreational use. Most of these camp and picnic grounds provide camp sites, tables, garbage pits, fireplaces, water supply, pit toilets and parking areas for cars. Sites for summer homes, resorts and camps are leased to responsible individuals and organizations.

Attendance records compiled by the U. S. Forest Service in 1937 indicated that more than 83% of the total visitors to the forests during that season were Montana residents. Certain picnic and camping areas which have been developed along main highways near cities or towns receive a large attendance for picnicking. Other more isolated areas are popular with fishermen and hunters in season.

In most instances the boundaries of the National Forests are some distance away from the main travelled highways. As a result, there is usually little opportunity for the U. S. Forest Service to develop camp or picnic grounds in locations that are readily accessible to the traveling public.

State Forests

The state forests comprise approximately 519,000 acres of land which is located largely in the western part of the state. In the Stillwater State Forest, two picnic and camp grounds have been developed having a capacity of about 200 people. Good swimming is available at these sites. In the Swan River State Forest, one picnic and camping area is provided with a capacity of about 50 people. No swimming facilities are available.

State Parks

No recreational facilities are provided by state parks in Montana. Park development is under way by the CCC at Morrison Cave State Park on U. S. 10 east of Butte, but the area is not yet open to the public.

Municipal Parks

Although a number of cities in Montana have for some years maintained municipal parks of varying size, emergency relief projects have been used to develop certain existing and new municipal parks which provide a much needed service for intensive daily recreation of local residents.

Private or Semi-Public Facilities

There are many dude ranches, resorts, golf courses and camps that provide special forms of recreation for a limited number of people on payment of regular fees. Certain service organizations and groups have provided much needed picnic or play facilities in a few instances.

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

When the subject of parks and recreational facilities is mentioned, the question is often asked "Why does Montana have to worry about state parks when we have two large national parks and several million acres of national forests with recreational facilities provided and maintained by Uncle Sam?"

It is true that our state is particularly fortunate in having these Federal areas and that the facilities provided are a distinct service in partially meeting the needs of the state residents and out-of-state visitors. It is also true that there are millions of acres of public domain where there are no signs against trespass, so it is quite natural for the casual observer to believe that there are tremendous areas available for people who care to enjoy the great outdoors.

It is perfectly clear that any state-wide recreational program should recognize the excellent areas and facilities for extensive recreation already provided on Federal lands. A sound program on the part of the state and its local units, would surely seek to supplement these facilities rather than duplicate them, and further, to provide much needed facilities for outdoor recreation for all the people, in localities where such facilities are not now available.

Recreation has become a social program. It is no longer a facility to be enjoyed only by the young or well to do, but one which is demanded by all of our people, whether they be engaged in industry, mining, farming, clerical, professional, domestic, skilled or unskilled labor. A wide variety of recreational opportunities are needed to satisfy the public demand.

One of the strongest forces for the reduction of crime and delinquency, and the maintenance of the virility and stamina of our people, lies in the use of outdoor recreational areas, resulting in health and better perspective. The entire nation has become park conscious and during the past two decades, an increasing number of states and communities have established park and recreation systems for the use and benefit of all the people.

In addition we have the important problem of providing recreational facilities for tourists and vacationists who help to make recreation the third industry in the state. The figures compiled by the highway department emphasize the importance of providing the necessary facilities for tourists which will result in greater economic benefit to the people of the state.

MANNER IN WHICH STATE PARK PROGRAM CAN SUPPLEMENT EXISTING FACILITIES

In order to provide all these needed facilities for the public, it will be necessary for the state to accept its responsibility by developing a well planned system of state parks, recreation areas, historic sites, wayside picnic and rest areas, roadside forests and other features in addition to the existing facilities already developed. When it is considered that many of the lands needed for such a program are already in Federal, state

or corporate ownership, that donations of lands privately owned may be anticipated in certain cases, and further, that Federal aid for development of recreational facilities through CCC, WPA and other work programs will doubtless become available once the state takes the initiative, the problem is not as difficult as it might first appear.

A sound recreational program for the state as a whole must surely consider the two physiographic divisions, the semi-arid eastern prairie section, and the mountainous western part of the state. The problem is a different one in each location.

In the eastern section of the state, we find an area about the size of the entire state of North Dakota, which is practically devoid of parks or recreational facilities with the exception of a few municipal parks and one or two wayside picnic areas. While the population of this section of the state is somewhat sparser than the western portion, the people living in the towns and on farms have the same needs and desires for recreational facilities, common to all the state. This urgent need for park facilities was shown by the surprising number of people who made use of Beaver Creek Park south of Havre, even while CCC development work was underway. On Labor Day 1936, it was estimated that there were 7,000 visitors to the park in one day. By actual count on Sunday, June 27, 1937, 2,132 people were recorded.

Because of the distances and time involved, many of these people in eastern Montana cannot afford to travel to the national parks and forests for their recreation. In addition, accessible facilities for the interest and comfort of recreational travellers are much needed in this section of the state.

In the western portion of the state, the residents of cities, towns and farms have more ready access to recreational areas in national parks and forests and state forests. But even in this section, there is a need for additional, readily accessible, parks and recreational facilities, to serve the needs of state residents and out-of-state vacationists.

NEED FOR A STATE-WIDE RECREATION STUDY

It is evident that the problem of planning a logical recreational program for Montana, should be based on a careful study and inventory of existing recreational facilities, a consideration of the recreational habits and desires of the public, both resident and tourist, a study of potential areas best suited to recreation, and finally, recommendations for a state recreation plan that may be expected to meet the needs of the public over a period of years.

Similar studies are now underway in most of the states. Fortunately, Federal cooperation has been made possible by an Act of Congress approved June 23, 1936 (Public No. 770½—74th Congress), which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, to cooperate with the several states in making a comprehensive study of their park, parkway, and recreational area programs.

The U. S. Forest Service is conducting similar studies on Federal lands under its jurisdiction, so that with the cooperation of these Federal

SCENIC AREAS AND ROADSIDE FORESTS

(Photos by K. D. Swan, courtesy U. S. Forest Service)



Above—Scenic areas of this character are available, and certain selected sites of State-wide importance should be acquired, preserved and protected by the state for future generations to enjoy.



Left—Typical virgin timber area along a highway preserved as a part of a National Forest. Similar areas outside of forest boundaries, can be acquired at reasonable cost by the State.

Right—An unsightly fire scar along a public highway. The State should acquire areas of this type along roadsides and restore their former beauty by tree and shrub plantings.



agencies, the state can proceed with the completion of a state-wide recreation study and report, covering all lands adapted for recreation.

It is believed that the state park authority should be authorized and provided with funds necessary to carry this study forward to completion, taking advantage of all possible assistance and cooperation from the National Park Service, U. S. Forest Service, State Planning Board, State Highway Department, State Historical Society, Montanans Inc., and other interested organizations and individuals. A number of other states in this region such as Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Nevada, Illinois and Indiana have already completed state reports. Most of the other states have their report underway.

From tentative preliminary studies already made by the State Forester in his capacity as State Park Director, with the technical assistance and consultation of officials from the National Park Service and U. S. Forest Service, it appears that the following types of state areas should be considered as important units of a well-rounded recreational system for Montana, to supplement the facilities already provided by Federal agencies.

State Parks

It is believed that several of the most outstanding scenic areas in the state should be acquired and developed as state parks. These areas should be of state-wide significance, just as the national parks are intended to be nationwide in importance, acquired to preserve for present and future generations, scenic and/or geologic features which are typical of Montana, not already preserved in Federal areas. Essential to the character of any state park are the preservation of the native landscape and vegetation, and the withholding of all its natural resources from commercial utilization. A limited acreage should be developed for concentrated use such as camping, picnicking, parking, access drive and service areas, which are necessary for public use and enjoyment of the park.

The state park areas would doubtless be the largest units in the recreational system and it is usually recommended that they include not less than 1,000 acres. Morrison Cave is an excellent example which meets all the qualifications of a state park as outlined above. This and other potential state park areas are briefly described in the following pages.

State Recreation Areas

In addition to the state parks, a number of recreation areas are needed throughout the state, especially in the eastern portion. Recreation areas are already provided in many of the National Forests. This proposal would seek to supplement these existing facilities with other accessible sites within easy driving distance of all the people in the state where such facilities are not now available. While it is desirable that these areas have scenic beauty, their location to serve the needs of city, village and farm residents, and their adaptability to use for active recreation is most essential. Shade for picnic and camping areas is particularly needed. An ideal recreation area should provide facilities for swimming, picnicking, camping, children's play, fields for sports and hiking trails. Facilities for fishing and boating are, of course desirable where they can be provided.

HISTORIC SITES OF THE CHARACTER THAT SHOULD BE PRESERVED BY THE STATE



Left—Fort Benton—Important fort built about 1860, at the head of navigation on the Missouri river.



Left—Three Forks—Junction of three rivers, known as headwaters of Missouri river.

(Photos by K. D. Swan, Courtesy U. S. Forest Service)

Right—Another view of the Three Forks area, mentioned by Lewis and Clark in their writings.



Left—Virginia City—Graves of five road agents, hanged by the Vigilantes.

Recreation areas should normally be near population centers, so they may be conveniently used by the largest number of people, including rural residents in the vicinity. An area of around 400 acres will usually provide all the necessary facilities for active recreation without crowding or wearing out of the natural features.

State Historical Parks

The early history of Montana, dealing with exploration, gold discovery, fur trading, military, railroad construction and homesteading reads like a novel. The excellent descriptive historical roadside markers, erected by the Highway Department at points along the highways have done much to popularize this early history with the public.

There are a number of areas of great historical importance in the state's history which should be acquired and preserved by the state as historical parks, with sufficient land to provide opportunities for active recreation.

Only those areas which portray an important phase of the state's history should be considered as a state responsibility. Many sites of local importance have already been marked and administered by the Highway Department and local organizations.

It is believed that Three Forks, Virginia City and Fort Benton illustrate the type of important areas that should be under State jurisdiction. These sites are described briefly in this report. Important historic sites such as Fort C. F. Smith, St. Mary's Mission and Fort Owen and possibly others might well be owned and preserved as State Monuments. Investigation of important archeologic sites will indicate the need and importance of their preservation by the state. Inscription Cave, near Billings, now owned by the Highway Department is an example of this classification.

State Waysides

A tabulation of replies from questionnaires returned by tourists to the Highway Department in 1937, revealed the fact that one of the largest sources of complaints proved to be the lack of high quality tourist camps and roadside picnic and parking areas.

It seems to be a matter of common opinion, that if Montana is to hold her popularity as a tourist state in competition with other western states offering excellent tourist facilities, that more wayside camps and picnic grounds in attractive settings must be provided along our principal tourist highways.

The Highway Department has developed three excellent waysides as follows:

(1) On Yellowstone River on U. S. 10 and No. 14, just west of Glendive, (2) near Malta, (3) on U. S. 2 west of Kalispell. They have also developed a number of roadside springs in addition to parking turnouts for scenic views and descriptive historical markers. All of these facilities for the comfort and information of the traveller are excellent.

The Highway Department has just completed an agreement with the Bureau of Public Roads, which will permit development of additional

HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT FOR RECREATION

(Photos by courtesy of Montana State Highway Department)



Left—Welcome sign and Port of Entry station erected at main highway entrances to state by the Highway Department. Valuable tourist data is collected at these stations.

Right—Typical historic roadside signs erected by Highway Department, with auto turnout. Widespread favorable comment of these signs indicates that both state and out-of-state people appreciate such features along the roadsides.



Left—A scenic view along the Cooke City-Red Lodge Highway. The spectacular beauty of this highway is already nationally known, and should be protected by the State of Montana.

Photo by Montanan's Inc.

wayside areas and improved facilities, so that new areas along our highways will doubtless be developed as funds are available.

Both the Bureau of Public Roads and the State Highway Department recognize the necessity of providing technical services of highly qualified and experienced landscape architects in the design and development of waysides. A real opportunity exists here to create unusually attractive camp and picnic areas along our highways which will help to set a standard of quality for all tourist facilities whether public or private.

A brief study of existing tourist accommodations indicates their inadequacy. It is suggested that more attractive accommodations might bring and hold tourists for a longer period. An especially attractive and restful overnight camp in a natural setting with an attractive view often results in economic benefit to the owner through longer occupancy by the traveller. State waysides and private tourist accommodations maintained on a high standard of sanitation and attractiveness can make a real contribution toward a finer state recreational system in Montana.

Roadside Forests

In order to preserve some of the finest stands of virgin timber along our main highways for present and future generations, it is essential that the state acquire certain choice areas, before it is too late.

California has taken a forward step, which has been acclaimed by the entire nation, in the acquisition and preservation of the redwoods along sections of their highways. Certain areas of virgin timber such as that along U. S. 2, west of Kalispell are just as important as recreational resources to Montana. It would be an irreparable tragedy if these majestic pines along the highway were logged. Early action by the state is essential in order to bring about permanent preservation of this majestic beauty, which is renowned as one of the choice treasures in roadside scenery in the northwest. Other similar areas of less extent along highways and lakes are equally worthy of preservation.

The U. S. Forest Service has acquired strips of virgin timber along highways, wherever possible under their regulations. If the boundary of these National Forests happens to be six miles or more away from any of the state's improved highways, the Federal regulations do not permit acquisition of virgin timber or other scenic areas along roadsides.

The state has no plans to acquire these valuable areas along our highways in locations where the U. S. Forest Service has no jurisdiction. There are a number of such areas that should be acquired and preserved by the state. The attraction and enjoyment, in the form of natural beauty, rest, shade and inspiring vistas, that these roadside forests will give the travelling public, cannot be estimated in dollars and cents.

The state is faced with a grave responsibility of retaining these areas of natural beauty along our highways, before they are logged and their scenic value lost to present and future generations.

POTENTIAL RECREATIONAL AREAS IN MONTANA

*State Parks**Morrison Cave*

Although no state park system has yet been established, Montana already is the owner of an excellent state park area, known as Morrison Cave State Park, located on U. S. 10, twelve miles west of Three Forks. This park area of 2,777 acres, is now under development by the CCC, under supervision of the National Park Service and will soon become a responsibility of the state for operation and maintenance as a public park.

The dominant feature of scenic and geologic interest included in the park is Morrison Cave, which consists of underground caverns of great beauty and scientific importance. Present access to the Cave Area is by means of a park drive from U. S. 10, a distance of 3.2 miles to the parking area. An easy foot trail, 3,300 feet long, has been completed from the parking area to the cave entrance. Considerable work has been done within the caverns to insure the comfort and safety of the public.

The panoramic mountain views from the parking area and overlook are particularly beautiful toward the Madison Mountain Range on the south. Some of the mountain peaks in the park area reach an elevation of 6,000 feet or 2,000 feet above the Jefferson River. There are many steep canyons and beautiful cliffs.

Further proposed improvements in the park by the CCC with state participation include:—Completion and surfacing of park drive and parking area with necessary structures, indirect lighting of cave and completion of exit tunnel, construction of public service building at parking area to include small museum, toilet facilities and quarters for guide.

Beaver Creek

This area, which is located about 18 miles south of Havre, was formerly a part of the Old Fort Assiniboine Military Reservation abandoned in 1911, and has been used as a recreational area for several years. The park which is federally owned land, comprises about 10,000 acres of land, extending for about 18 miles along Beaver Creek, an attractive mountain stream famous for trout fishing. The adjoining hills support a scattering growth of fir trees, while along the creek are dense groves of cottonwood, which provide excellent shade for picnic and camping areas. From Mount Otis, the highest point in the park, commanding views of the Bear Paw Mountains and the surrounding country may be obtained.

Since this section of the state is largely semi-arid, with very few areas of woodland, the great value of this park site for recreational use is widely appreciated by the public.

The large use of this important area even while development was underway, is in itself forceful evidence of the need of such recreational facilities in this and other sections of the state. It is believed that this excellent area would form an important unit in a state park system, and since the land is federally owned, transfer to the state for recreational use could doubtless be arranged.

MORRISON CAVE STATE PARK



Left—CCC boys at work on entrance drive to Cave.



Above—Interior of Cave
“The Brown Waterfalls”



Above—Interior of Cave
“The Spring Room”



A Park Museum Building constructed by CCC near Guernsey, Wyoming. This type of building is proposed for Morrison Cave State Park.

MORRISON CAVE STATE PARK

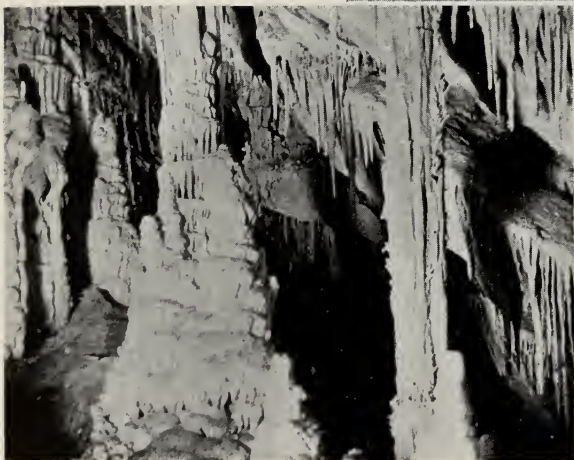
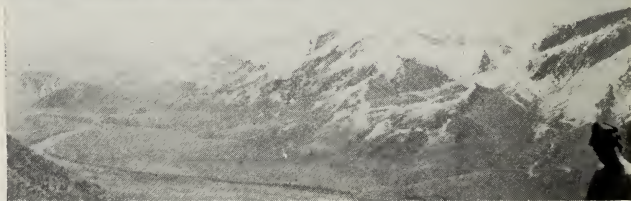


Left—Park Entrance Drive which will provide access to the Cave and picnic and camp grounds from U. S. No. 10.



Left—Upper view of park road showing features of scenic interest in park area.

Right—Looking south from entrance to cave showing panoramic view of Madison Mountain range.



Left—Interior of Cave
The "Cathedral Room"

Bad Lands, near Glendive

This picturesque badlands area, located just southeast of Glendive, has long been recognized as one of the outstanding potential park sites in the eastern section of the state. Its spectacular scenery has been compared with the famous Badlands Area in South Dakota.

A large part of the most scenic area is owned by Federal, state or railroad, so that acquisition of sufficient area to include the most spectacular portions should not be difficult.

This area has the added advantage of a location close to U. S. 10, the most heavily traveled highway in the state. It is proposed that a park access road about six miles in length, following the route of an old wagon trail, would make this area easily available to residents of the state and tourists alike.

Historic interest centers in the fact that this area was the sacred ground of the Sioux tribe. They had requested this area as a reservation, and the intrusion of miners into the area started a conflict which years later resulted in the Custer Massacre.

It is believed that this area possesses the desired qualities for an important state park and that the facilities would be enjoyed by present and future generations, if the park can be acquired and developed for public use.

Although the badlands area covers an area of approximately 50,000 acres, it is believed that a park area of five to seven thousand acres would include the most spectacular scenery and that the surrounding acreage could be viewed and enjoyed regardless of ownership.

Piney Buttes, near Jordan

This scenic area also popularly known as Hell Creek is located about 20 miles north of Jordan, on the northwest slope of the Piney Buttes.

Citizens of the state who have visited this area are enthusiastic about its spectacular beauty and state that the views of this badlands country with its unusual coloring and sunsets make it a scenic area to be long remembered.

Because of its strategic location in relation to proposed extensions of highways No. 6 and No. 22, in eastern Montana, where no state park facilities now exist, it is believed that this area should be included in the state park program. Since the area is largely public or railroad lands, acquisition for park development should not be difficult or expensive.

Thompson Lake Area, near Kalispell

Field studies indicate that a superlative area for state park purposes exists along the route of U. S. 2, about 20 miles west of Kalispell. This potential park site includes an unbroken stretch of virgin timber about 28 miles in length and a chain of very scenic lakes near the highway, in the vicinity of Thompson Lakes, backed up by mountains with wooded slopes.

Further study would determine the most desirable area for state park use in this beautiful section, but it is evident that a unique combination of state park, roadside forest and wayside camp could be developed in

BEAVER CREEK PARK AREA



Above—A portion of the crowds visiting Beaver Creek Park on July 4, 1936, during period of park development by CCC.



Above—General view of park area which is unusually rugged for this section of the state.



Above—Along Beaver Creek—"The Fords" near the Assiniboine Camp Ground.



Above—Fish Rearing Ponds completed by CCC boys in cooperation with State Fish and Game Commission.

Left—Another lovely camp or picnic site along Beaver Creek in the park area.

this general region. Such an area would preserve the virgin timber and provide a state park area which would become increasingly famous in the future as one of the most important recreational resources in Montana.

Gates of the Mountains

Lewis and Clark discovered and named the Gates of the Mountains on their exploration expedition on July 19, 1805. This highly scenic area where the Missouri River emerges from a mountainous canyon into the open country is already well known among Montana people and is visited by several thousand persons each year. It has often been suggested for preservation as a public park.

The canyon is about five miles long, with rock walls rising to a height of 1,200 feet above the river. The Missouri River is about 150 yards in width through the canyon and very deep even at the water's edge.

Medicine Rock

This scenic area which is located near Ekalaka in southeastern Montana is composed of large boulders and geologic formations of great interest with sparse cover of picturesque yellow pine trees. The area was much used by the Indians for sacrificial purposes. Development of the site should only provide access and simple facilities permitting the people to view this area of great scenic, historic and geologic interest.

State Recreation Areas

Investigation has not proceeded far enough to make definite suggestions for needed recreation areas. There are many possibilities that should be given consideration, based on their location to provide much needed facilities, and their adaptability to recreational use.

Roundup Peaks, which is located on the Musselshell River near Roundup is a good illustration of the type of recreation area which might be acquired particularly in eastern Montana to furnish the people of that area with much needed recreation facilities. This site is well covered with cottonwood timber which offer ideal shade for picnicking and camping. The high sandstone cliffs on the south support scattering stands of cedar and pine. Wind erosion has created interesting rock formations.

A recreation area accessible to Fort Peck Dam, perhaps on the newly created lake, to accommodate the vast number of residents and tourists who will visit this area, appears to be needed. Past experience at other large government dam sites has shown the absolute necessity of providing adequate recreation facilities.

Big Springs, located near Lewistown, includes a large spring which provides a considerable quantity of splendid mountain water, the source of city water supply. This area has been developed to some extent for recreational purposes.

Giant Springs, located near Great Falls, is reported to be the largest fresh water spring in the United States. This area is one of the best possibilities for recreational development in this district.

POTENTIAL STATE PARK SITES



Left and below—Showing Bad Land formation near Glendive, an excellent park area, a large part of which is already in public ownership.

Photos courtesy U. S. Forest Service



Left—"Gates of the Mountains," near U. S. Highway No. 91 between Helena and Great Falls, a nationally known scenic and historic area which should be owned and protected by the State.

Photo courtesy L. H. Jorud

Right—Medicine Rock near Ekalaka. A potential park site with important scenic and historic values.

Photo courtesy U. S. Forest Service



Similar recreation areas are much needed in the vicinity of Billings and Miles City.

State Historical Parks

Three Forks

This important historic area, referred to in the writings of Lewis and Clark as the "Stone Fort," is located near Trident in the vicinity of Three Forks, and includes the headwaters of the Missouri River formed by the junction of the Madison, Jefferson and Gallatin Rivers at this location. A fur trading post was erected here in 1810.

It is surprising to learn the large number of people, including tourists, who make a special effort to visit this site at present, with no facilities provided. The popularity of visits to Itasca State Park in Minnesota to see the Headwaters of the Mississippi River is well known as a feature of especial interest. It is believed that this site has an appeal of equal interest to the public.

In addition to the features of historic and natural interest, this area possesses considerable scenic beauty and is well suited to recreational use. Suggestions have been made that if the site were made a state historic park, the features of interest could be emphasized by holding an annual Indian rendezvous, similar to those held at Gallup, New Mexico. An all Indian encampment and rodeo composed of Yankton, Sioux, Assiniboiné, Blackfeet, Flathead, Crow and Cheyenne representatives could be made an annual event, which would become a feature of great tourist interest and provide opportunity for Indians to market examples of their craft work.

Considerable support has already developed for the early establishment of this historic site as a state historic park, and it is believed that such a proposal is well founded. Interested citizens of Three Forks have indicated that a donation of 500 acres or more of land for park purposes would be forthcoming, in the event that this site were included in a state park system.

Fort Benton

The site of the Fort Benton fur trading and military post is located on the Missouri River within the limits of the city of Fort Benton. It is located on a paved highway, 43 miles from Great Falls.

Mr. Hummel, Assistant Historian of the National Park Service, says regarding Fort Benton: "Although best known for its associations with the early western fur trade, Fort Benton is associated with all the phases of western development. From the time Lewis and Clark passed here to the date when the railroad crossed Montana, all the various stages in frontier history—exploring, fur trading, military post, military overland road, and ranching—can all be traced through the history of Fort Benton.

"The heyday of Fort Benton as the head of steamboat navigation on the Missouri came in the late 60's. Fort Benton was also the terminus of a military road starting at Fort Walla Walla, the head of navigation of the Columbia River. This road was built by the War Department between 1855 and 1862.

"Fort Benton, in my opinion is one of the most important historical sites in Montana. It represents all phases of frontier history and was, at one time, the most important center of transportation and commerce in this state. It should be preserved as a State Historical Monument."

From the above quotation, it is clear that the importance of Fort Benton from a historic standpoint is well established and recognized. It is believed that the state should take an active interest in the preservation and possible restoration of this site as a state historic park.

Virginia City

The discovery of gold in Alder Gulch in November 1862 and the following gold rush in June 1863, mark the beginnings of Virginia City, an unspoiled relic of Pioneer western life, closely associated with the early history and development of Montana.

Located fifteen miles from Ennis, this historic site is easily accessible from the most direct paved route between Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks.

Here the richest placer gold deposits the world has ever known were discovered. Several of the original buildings such as the bakery, saloon, first dwelling house, first newspaper published in Montana, etc., are still standing.

The first Supreme Court session in Montana's history was held in Virginia City. The first Capitol was erected here in 1875 but before it was occupied Last Chance Gulch outvoted Virginia and the Capitol went to Helena.

In 1864, citizens of Bannock and Virginia City contributed funds to send Sidney Edgerton to Washington, D. C. to see President Lincoln regarding establishment of Montana as a Territory. President Lincoln sent Edgerton back as Governor.

The lawless activities of Henry Plummer and his gang of road agents, murderers and gamblers, brought about the organization of the famous Virginia Vigilantes in 1863, resulting in the trial and hanging of the Plummer gang. Their graves may still be seen near the town.

A museum, financed by private contributions, has already been erected to protect historic relics, but it is believed that early action must be taken by the state to preserve the historic buildings and atmosphere of this site, before they are forever lost. Several of the early buildings have already been burnt or torn down.

The thousands of people who already visit this site every year provide forcible evidence of the public interest in the early history of Virginia City and Montana. It is believed that local citizens and former residents would cooperate with the state, if a plan were started to restore and preserve this site as a State Historic Park. It would be difficult to imagine a more worthy project for the state to undertake; one which would constitute an educational feature of tremendous interest to state residents, and out-of-state tourists.

NEED FOR PROPER LEGISLATION AND FINANCING OF A STATE PARK SYSTEM

Montana has never appropriated any funds to acquire, protect or develop any of its natural recreational resources. The state has apparently been content to leave this responsibility to the various agencies of the Federal government.

This report has already emphasized that the Federal government cannot be expected to assume all of the responsibility for the conservation and development of these resources, not to mention the provision of recreational facilities so badly needed in many sections of our state.

The Federal government cooperates with the various states in many lines of work such as forestry, water conservation, highway construction, rural education and extension work, home construction, state park development and many other activities. In all cases, however, the state must take the initiative by providing the necessary legislation and financing, to establish and operate a state agency, in order to receive the full benefits of this cooperative arrangement.

Montana is one of the few states in the nation that has not established a state park agency with funds and authority to participate in the recreational planning, development and maintenance of state parks. In 1929, a park bill was passed authorizing the State Board of Land Commissioners to set aside suitable tracts of state lands for recreational purposes and designated the State Forester as State Park Director. However, no legislative appropriations have been made for financing and administering state parks.

Such legislation and financing are urgently needed at the present time in order to provide a legal basis for the continuance of Federal cooperation through CCC and other agencies in developing state parks and recreational areas.

President Roosevelt has frequently emphasized the need for providing recreational facilities for all the people. To aid the states in this program, adequate Federal legislation has been passed. The National Park Service has provided an emergency organization to cooperate with the states in planning and development of state parks and recreational areas through the CCC program and in preparation of recreation studies.

Early in 1937, President Roosevelt requested information from the Governors of the various states regarding the maintenance of improvements, accomplished through the CCC program. He said, in part:

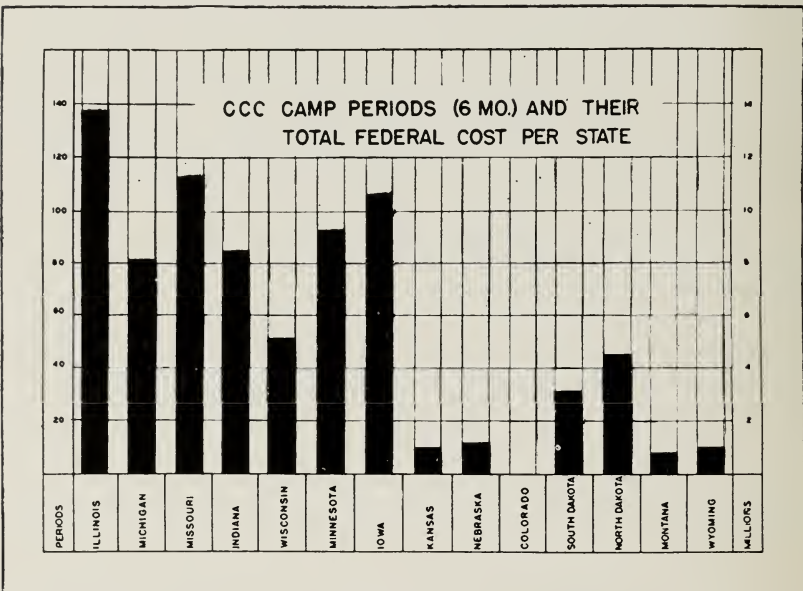
"It is vitally important that each state should make adequate arrangement to maintain the physical improvements that have been accomplished by CCC camps on State property. This is with special reference to state parks and state forests.

"I would be glad to learn what measures your state has taken to insure the proper maintenance and orderly development of this work in your state. It seems to me that the time has come for each state to make proper provision for taking over this part of the work.

... "It will naturally follow that those states which show a proper concern for their part in this cooperative work with the Federal Government will be entitled to receive first consideration."

Legislation passed by the 75th Congress (Public No. 183) establishing the CCC for a period of three years, also strongly emphasized the need of state participation in this cooperative work, as follows:

... "No projects shall be undertaken on lands . . . other than those belonging to . . . the United States, unless adequate provisions are made by the cooperating agencies for the maintenance, operation and utilization of such projects after their completion."



CCC Camp Periods and their total Federal cost per state shows for each state the total number of CCC camp periods of six months indicated on the left and the millions of dollars expended indicated on the right. Future Federal expenditures should conform more closely to the relative figures shown on these other charts.

This chart reflects an established policy of the National Park Service in cooperating with the various states in developing recreational facilities. The extent of the CCC program in each state has, to a large extent, been determined by the willingness and interest of the state in furthering and successfully operating its recreational system. Thus, Iowa, with comparatively low park acreage and population, has received an unusually large amount of Federal cooperation. Iowa has displayed outstanding initiative in the development of its system and is justifying such development through good maintenance and operation of its system. Montana can place itself in a more favorable position for Federal assistance in the development of the recreation system by indicating a park consciousness through the authorization of an appropriation and establishing a Park Division in its department.

(Comparative Chart through courtesy of National Park Service prepared for 14 states in Region II)

In the case of Morrison Cave SP-3, CCC camp, the work was initiated on lands then owned by the Federal government. These lands have now been transferred to the state. In light of the above legislation, it appears very doubtful that the camp can be continued unless a state agency is pro-

vided and financed to operate and maintain this important park after completion. Limited state funds are also essential for purchase of materials and equipment in order to secure the full benefit of this CCC improvement at Morrison Cave.

The National Park Service has also indicated its willingness to assign other camps for recreational development in the state, if a state park authority is created with a reasonable appropriation for planning, administration and maintenance of park areas.

It is believed that the Beaver Creek Camp, vacated in January 1937, might have been retained if state participation had been provided. The completion of this development and its establishment as a state park is still an excellent possibility with very little cost to the state, since the lands are federally owned.

Legislation and financing for a state park system are also essential in order to provide for the employment by the state of a full time State Park Director with technical assistance needed in proper study and planning of the recreational problems. It is of primary importance that highly qualified technical assistance in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture and engineering be employed or otherwise made available to the State Park Commission. The assignment of additional CCC camps for future park development by the National Park Service is predicated on the ability of the state to provide adequate technical planning of a high calibre.

The first duty of the State Park Director should be to expedite the completion of a recreation study and report and the formulation of a state-wide recreation plan, in cooperation with the National Park Service, similar to the studies now being made or completed by other states.

The National Park Service is anxious to help the state in the completion of this recreation report and have indicated that they will cooperate with the state whenever the study is initiated with a full-time qualified state employee in charge.

PUBLIC SUPPORT NEEDED

It is evident that adequate legislation and financing for a state park system can only be secured by public support of the program by various organizations and individuals in Montana. It is the purpose of this discussion to present accurate information so that the citizens of the state will become acquainted with the need for a state park program and give it their enthusiastic support.

A state Recreation Committee, formed in 1934, including representatives of State Highway Commission, State Forester's Office, Fish and Game Commission, National Park Service, U. S. Forest Service, Dude Ranchers Association and Montana Livestock Association, continues their active support for a state-wide recreation program. In addition, many organizations and individuals have expressed themselves formally and informally regarding the tremendous potential value of such a program in Montana.

This program should be of great interest to many organizations of

citizens who are concerned with the welfare of the state and its people, such as service clubs, historical societies, chambers of commerce, labor organizations, livestock associations, dude ranchers associations, youth organizations and others.

The combined support of many groups and individuals will aid in the establishment of a worth while state recreational program during this session of the Legislature.

Experience in others states has proven that once public support for a park and recreational program is secured, donations of needed lands and oftentimes funds for recreational development from individuals or organizations may result, if a state agency is made responsible for administration and maintenance of such areas. The problem of land acquisition should not be a difficult one since many areas well suited to recreational use are now owned by Federal, state or corporate agencies. Certain key parcels with special values would doubtless need to be purchased.

The citizens of Montana have an unusual opportunity, at this time, of starting a state recreational program which they and their children can enjoy, and which will provide added attractions to encourage outstate visitors to remain for a longer period and enjoy these recreational facilities and points of interest.

WHAT OTHER STATES ARE DOING IN STATE PARK WORK

NORTH DAKOTA

In regard to the recent development of a state park program in North Dakota, Mr. Russell Reid, State Park Director says: "We are cognizant of a widespread public demand for state park facilities, which is growing year by year. We now have six state parks and forty-two recreational areas or historic sites. Public attendance and use of our state parks and historic areas have shown a pronounced increase in the last decade. This increase has been particularly noticeable in recent years since many fine developments have been completed by the CCC. At Fort Lincoln State Park, for example, the restoration of historic structures and provision of picnic and other recreational facilities, has resulted in a large increase in attendance by both state residents and tourists, 48,139 people visiting this area during the summer of 1938. Many people come to picnic and camp, who are not especially interested in the historic features when they come, but become so after one visit.

"We have a long way to go in meeting the public demand for state parks and recreation areas in North Dakota, and we are receiving many requests from sections of the state not now served, for establishment of state parks in their vicinity. We are doing our best with limited funds to meet the demands of North Dakota people. We also believe that the provision of these recreational facilities and the preservation of important historic sites are of increasing interest to out-of-state visitors and that our state park and historic program will result in economic benefit to the state through increased tourist expenditures."

MINNESOTA

Mr. Harold Lathrop, State Park Director says: "Since Minnesota is a vacation state, there is need for providing facilities, not only for the people of Minnesota but for the thousands of tourists who come to Minnesota each summer because of the fine woods and lakes. Thus, Minnesota has a dual purpose in providing an adequate state park system.

"There are at the present time twenty state parks, ranging in area from 110 acres, to Itasca, which contains 31,816 acres. There are 4 state memorial parks, which comprise historic or memorial background, in addition to recreational facilities. We also have three recreation reserves, eleven state waysides, and eight state monuments under the state park system.

"It is anticipated that fourteen additional areas will be necessary in order that the policy and program of the Division may be realized.

"Minnesota expends in the neighborhood of \$100,000 each year for maintenance and operation, a large part of same being met from receipts from revenue producing activities, such as boating, bathing, cabins, camping and concessions. Most concessions are state-operated, in order that the state may receive the increased profits.

"Eleven new state parks have been established during the past four years, and many acquisitions have been made to increase the size of previously established existing parks. It can be seen from the above statements that the state can capitalize on the tourist business by providing adequate facilities within state-owned areas for the convenience of the tourists."

STATE OF WASHINGTON

Mr. W. G. Weigle, Superintendent of State Parks says: "The patronage of state parks by the people of the state of Washington has increased greatly during the last few years. Ten years ago the total attendance of the Washington state Parks during one season did not amount to more than 50,000 people. During 1937 and 1938 the attendance was well over 500,000. It would seem reasonable to consider the great increase in attendance of our state parks to indicate that there is a definite need for such places of recreation.

"The sentiment of the people of the state of Washington is very strongly in favor of state parks. The increase of the patronage of our developed parks has made it impossible for us to keep the improvements adequate to take care of the increased crowds. Several of our parks that we thought well developed as far as latrine and kitchen capacities were concerned, were found to be so inadequate that we had to rebuild and more than double the capacity.

"We now have twenty-six developed state parks. Most of these were acquired by gift, several by the setting aside of state lands, and three areas have been purchased."

STATEMENTS OF MONTANA CITIZENS REGARDING THIS PROPOSAL

Dean Stone of the Journalism Department of the University of Montana makes the following comment on the proposed recreational program: "It seems to me that no formal indorsement of the plan is needed once its purpose is understood. Montana has not taken advantage of her great wealth in scenic, historic and recreational points of interest. Comparatively slight effort, if it is systematized will, I believe, result in the furtherance of this excellent program. I believe too, that there are persons in every Montana community who will join in the movement, once their attention is directed toward it.

"Leaving out of consideration all sentiment and patriotism, look at the economic phase of the situation. I haven't the exact figures, but as I recall it nearly half a million cars entered Montana last year. How many of them stopped in the state except to buy meals and gas? Roadside parks would have induced these cars to pause in their flight across our area. They would have enjoyed the brief relaxation; they would have learned much about Montana. They and we would have been benefited.

"There are so many arguments in favor of the proposed plan that I can see no reason why it should not receive cordial support."

Judge Lew L. Callaway, former Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court, says in part, regarding this program: "There certainly is need for state parks, for the development of wayside camps, and the acquisition and development of scenic areas.

"Virgin stands of timber should be preserved, historical structures and places of interest should be restored to their original status as near as may be.

"Montana has many natural playgrounds of which its own people should take advantage and these are a decided attraction to our neighbors, and tourists in general."

ELEVENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE FORESTER

The depression years beginning in 1930 and ending in 1935 showed a very marked downward trend in the demand for State timber. This reduction in the business of selling State timber followed about the same downward curve indicated by practically all business enterprises. Therefore, the demand for State owned timber by the lumber industry is a fairly accurate index showing the upward or downward movement of business activities generally.

Montana State forests, all of which were originally granted to the State by the Federal Government and allocated to our various State institutions (educational and otherwise), contain about 519,000 acres. The remaining virgin timber contained within this area is estimated to be about two and one-half billion board feet.

The balance between drain and growth will permit the removal of 25,000,000 feet board measure or more annually, which means that if such a plan is carried out, the state forests will be placed on a basis of sustained production. A program of this kind would require 100 years or less to dispose of the present virgin stands of commercial timber. At the end of this cycle or rotation period, cutting could be continued on the second growth areas, which were left in the form of advance growth after the early cuttings of the virgin timber stands.

From the standpoint of permanence, there should be a definite plan of cutting for all forest lands in the state, so that in the long run, drain and growth would be about equal. A program of this kind is the only method that would result in the perpetuation of communities dependent upon forest resources. After all, the human side involving social and economic problems is the vital issue.

Problems involving sustained production of forest resources to permit the establishment of permanent communities dependent upon the forests, must and will be worked out, not only for Montana, but for the Nation as a whole, through the cooperation of federal, state and private agencies, each cooperator sharing in the cost and the benefits to be derived.

As previously stated, the 519,000 acres of state forests are capable of supplying each year 25,000,000 feet board measure or more on the basis of sustained production, providing of course that there is some practical plan of forest management. There has been during the past ten years an average annual cut of only 15,000,000 feet board measure. Under these circumstances, during the next ten years, the State would be justified to exceed the cut for the period just past, providing that market conditions would meet the increased demand; the idea being not to force the sale of state timber on the market, thereby creating a surplus and depressing prices.

The following tables give the volume of business on State forest lands for the fiscal years 1933 to 1938, inclusive:

(a) VOLUME OF TIMBER CUT AND SOLD UNDER PERMIT
LOG SCALE

Fiscal Year	No. of Permits	Yellow Pine	Fir, Larch & Lodgepole	White Pine	Cedar Poles	Xmas Trees	Dead Timber
1933	153	106,300'	732,740'				720 M ft.
1934	185	166,220'	1,984,020'			26,203	1,120 M ft.
1935	323	625,460'	4,144,860'			14,200	1,925 M ft.
1936	301	1,045,860'	2,255,580'			10,100	1,980 M ft.
1937	250	712,750'	2,014,320'	81,010'	223	6,145	1,851 M ft.
1938	254	471,570'	1,654,370'		424	14,515	1,447 M ft.

Timber may be sold under permit, without advertising, in amounts not to exceed 100 M feet. These permits include saw timber, ties, poles, posts, cordwood, piling, etc.

(b) VOLUME OF TIMBER CUT UNDER SALE CONTRACTS
LOG SCALE

Fiscal Year	Yellow Pine	Fir & Larch	White Pine	Spruce	Cedar Lin. Ft.
1933	5,850,000'	2,850,990'			
1934	3,082,200'	3,272,810'	3,188,580'		
1935	1,962,820'	1,214,970'	3,248,460'		
1936	5,095,000'	3,588,100'	2,397,180'	17,590'	
1937	4,963,640'	6,197,270'	521,820'	207,760'	12,925
1938	9,872,860'	10,875,570'	468,890'	158,000'	

(a & b) TOTAL OF TIMBER CUT UNDER PERMIT AND SALE
CONTRACTS LOG SCALE

Fiscal Year	Yellow Pine	Fir, Larch & Lodgepole	White Pine	Cedar Poles	Spruce	Total Bd. Ft.	Fir Xmas Trees
1933	5,956 M ft.	3,584 M ft.				9,540 M ft.	
1934	3,248 M ft.	5,257 M ft.	3,189 M ft.			11,694 M ft.	26,203
1935	2,588 M ft.	5,360 M ft.	3,248 M ft.			11,196 M ft.	14,200
1936	6,141 M ft.	5,844 M ft.	2,397 M ft.		18 M ft.	14,400 M ft.	10,100
1937	5,677 M ft.	8,211 M ft.	603 M ft.	85 M ft.	208 M ft.	14,784 M ft.	6,145
1938	10,345 M ft.	12,530 M ft.	469 M ft.	30 M ft.	158 M ft.	23,532 M ft.	14,515

DEAD TIMBER CUT UNDER FREE PERMITS FOR DOMESTIC USE

Fiscal Year	No. of Permits	Amount in Bd. Ft.
1933	920	4,820 M ft.
1934	813	3,976 M ft.
1935	668	3,045 M ft.
1936	470	1,976 M ft.
1937	403	1,959 M ft.
1938	348	1,898 M ft.

RECEIPTS FROM TIMBER SOLD AND LAND RENTALS

Fiscal Year	Timber Sales	Timber Permits	No. of Permits	Land Rentals	Total
1933	\$29,681.34	\$1,512.13	245	\$ 5,837.81	\$37,031.28
1934	31,272.88	5,931.66	300	6,496.41	43,700.95
1935	21,371.89	8,354.02	342	8,397.47	38,103.38
1936	27,476.39	7,011.34	303	6,365.44	40,853.17
1937	28,208.27	7,762.17	386	8,616.26	44,586.70
1938	46,101.68	8,384.38	368	10,256.84	64,742.90

STATE FOREST DEPARTMENT STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS
AND EXPENDITURES FROM JULY 1, 1932 to JUNE 30, 1938

Appropriation:	7-1-32 to 6-30-33	\$32,735.00	
Balance brought forward from fiscal year 1932.....		2,838.99	
Expenditures:	7-1-32 to 6-30-33		
Administration	\$ 8,415.50		
Repairs and Replacements	597.71		
Protection	13,376.25		
Timber Sales	5,389.36		
Land Exchange	33.77		
	\$27,812.59		
Reverted to General Fund 6-30-33.....	7,761.40		
	\$35,573.99	\$35,573.99	
Appropriation:	7-1-33 to 6-30-34	\$23,685.00	
Expenditures:	7-1-33 to 6-30-34		
Administration	\$ 6,344.41		
Capital	150.00		
Protection	11,916.33		
Timber Sales	5,002.68		
	\$23,413.42		
Balance fiscal year 1934.....	271.58		
	\$23,685.00	\$23,685.00	
Appropriation:	7-1-34 to 6-30-35	\$23,685.00	
Balance brought forward from fiscal year 1934.....		271.58	
Expenditures:	7-1-34 to 6-30-35		
Administration	\$ 6,709.35		
Capital	140.10		
Protection	12,067.79		
Timber Sales	4,935.85		
	\$23,853.09		
Reverted to General Fund 6-30-35.....	103.49		
	\$23,956.58	\$23,956.58	
Appropriation:	7-1-35 to 6-30-36	\$27,943.00	
Expenditures:	7-1-35 to 6-30-36		
Administration	\$ 8,250.91		
Repairs and Replacements	247.57		
Protection	13,466.89		
Timber Sales	5,521.90		
	\$27,487.27		
Balance fiscal year 1936.....	455.73		
	\$27,943.00	\$27,943.00	
Appropriation:	7-1-36 to 6-30-37	\$27,943.00	
Balance brought forward from fiscal year 1936.....		455.73	
Expenditures:	7-1-36 to 6-30-37		
Administration	\$ 8,199.09		
Capital, Repairs and Replacements	552.43		
Protection	13,429.11		
Timber Sales	6,218.10		
	\$28,398.73	\$28,398.73	
Appropriation:	7-1-37 to 6-30-38	\$28,395.00	
Expenditures:	7-1-37 to 6-30-38		
Administration	\$ 8,224.87		
Capital, Repairs and Replacements	400.00		
Protection	13,447.24		
Timber Sales	5,802.17		
Land Exchange	371.31		
	\$28,245.59		
Balance fiscal year 1938.....	149.41		
	\$28,395.00	\$28,395.00	

It will be noted that during the past fiscal year, the amount of timber cut increased from a total of \$5,837.81 on 245 permits in 1933 to a total of \$10,256.84 on 368 permits in 1938.

With 24,180 M ft. of timber remaining to be cut on twelve (12) sale contracts at the beginning of fiscal year 1939, and with applications now pending for about 26,000 M ft., there is every reason to believe that the timber sale business is on an upward trend. The administration of all timber activities and of the grazing and land use business must be handled by the funds appropriated for timber sales. It has been extremely difficult under the present annual appropriation of \$5,870.00, to give adequate supervision to the work. A further increase in business can be handled only by an increase in appropriation to administer it. For this reason, it appears advisable to enter into no new timber sale contracts until it is known that the next biennial appropriation will be sufficient to cover the additional cost of supervision.

FIRE PROTECTION

Year	Forest Area Protected	Number of Fires Caused by Lightning	Number of Fires Caused by Human Agencies	Total Number	Acres Burned	Damage	Prevention and Suppression Costs
1933	4,320,000	101	134	235	4,437	\$ 7,248 00	\$ 86,113.00
1934	4,320,000	191	245	436	10,585	25,616.00	101,919.00
1935	4,320,000	212	243	455	6,905	16,630.00	93,168.00
1936	4,320,000	320	203	523	6,099	21,934.00	95,021.00
1937	4,540,000	217	208	425	2,016	5,971.00	100,281.00

Approximately 4,300,000 acres of State and private forest land in Montana are under organized protection by the following agencies: United States Forest Service, Northern Montana Forestry Association, Blackfoot Forest Protective Association, State Forest Department, Flathead Indian Agency and a small acreage with the Glacier National Park organization. An estimated 1,100,000 acres of timber land, nearly all of which is in Eastern Montana, is not under organized protection. The unprotected forest lands are mostly located in Musselshell, Fergus, Cascade and Lewis & Clark counties, where during the drouth seasons from 1931 to 1936 inclusive, thousands of acres of timber were blackened by fire. The State has made an effort to organize fire protection in one of these districts where the fire situation has been the most serious, but the plan failed through lack of support by the land owners concerned. Therefore, the only protection now given to State and private forest lands in Eastern Montana is that furnished by the United States Forest Service on lands within and adjacent to the National Forests.

The average assessment rate on lands listed with the Association and State is about 2¾¢ per acre. This does not include extra assessments required to meet unusual fire suppression costs.

State forest lands are listed as follows:

B. F. P. A.	139,704 acres
N. M. F. A.	104,776 acres
U. S. Forest Service	78,948 acres (Western Montana)
U. S. Forest Service	27,513 acres (Eastern Montana)
Stillwater and Big Fork	97,985 acres (State organization)
Flathead Agency	23,472 acres
Glacier National Park	10,348 acres
<hr/>	
Total protected	482,746 acres

Unprotected State forest lands in Eastern Montana include about 35,000 acres.

Based on a fifteen year average, the annual cost of protecting State lands amounts to \$17,124.00. This is equivalent to a rate of 3¾c per acre on lands in Western Montana and a little less than 1c per acre on lands in Eastern Montana.

During the past six years, there have been no extremely serious fire seasons in Western Montana, although in 1934 and 1936 fires occurred in the Coal Creek and Swan River State Forests which were difficult to control. In 1937 one fire on lands listed with the Blackfoot Forest Protective Association cost about \$12,000 to control. This necessitated an extra ½c per acre levy on the 1938 listings with this Association.

The State appropriation for fire protection was insufficient to pay this extra ½c per acre assessment on the State lands listed with the Association, consequently the claim amounting to \$698.52 must be presented to the 1939 legislative assembly for a deficit appropriation. A similar deficit was incurred with the United States Forest Service when its claim for protection of State lands in 1938 exceeded available funds by \$864.91.

LAND EXCHANGE

Indemnity selections covering approximately 13,000 acres of public domain timber lands were made during the period 1928 to 1932. The base lands offered by the State for these selections comprised scattered tracts of inferior forest values. The indemnity lands, all of which have now been clear listed to the State, contain fair stands of merchantable timber well located for future logging operations.

Under the land exchange law enacted in 1931, the State has completed one exchange with the Anaconda Copper Mining Company involving 2,559 acres of scattered State timber land for 4,637 acres of Company timber land, located within the Sula State Forest. Through this exchange, the State now owns a block of 13,000 acres of the best yellow pine stand in the Bitterroot drainage.

Another exchange proposal has recently been made with this Company, whereby 2,232 acres of scattered cut over lands belonging to the State, are offered for an equal acreage of similar lands located within the Thompson River State Forest near Plains.

Exchange proposals have also been made to the Somers Lumber Company, which include several thousand acres of scattered State holdings in

the Little Bitterroot drainage and vicinity for a block of Company lands within the Stillwater State Forest.

FIRE COOPERATION

Fiscal Year	PROTECTION		BRUSH DISPOSAL		SLASH DISPOSAL	
	Receipts	Expenditures	Receipts	Expenditures	Receipts	Expenditures
1933	\$ 33,317.04	\$ 26,370.65	\$ 5,989.17	\$ 4,824.36	\$ 8,890.47	\$ 6,474.59
1934	26,466.63	24,768.29	4,641.03	4,458.08	8,326.73	7,883.97
1935	30,497.70	31,721.33	3,406.97	3,632.17	16,926.20	17,568.03
1936	24,388.67	24,653.87	3,911.42	4,153.07	20,116.03	16,295.95
1937	25,966.58	27,455.08	5,133.66	4,283.26	34,818.59	30,892.17
1938	25,377.55	27,817.28	8,428.22	8,333.98	29,127.73	31,104.99
Totals	\$166,014.17	\$162,786.50	\$31,510.47	\$29,684.92	\$118,295.75	\$110,219.70

1933 receipts include balances from fiscal year 1932.

Fire cooperation receipts include the federal allotment to Montana under the Clarke-McNary Act, fire protection assessments paid by private timber owners on lands within the Big Fork and Stillwater State units, and the small amount collected from licensing portable sawmills.

Brush disposal receipts include the fees collected from purchasers of State timber to defray the cost of brush disposal. This usually amounts to 40c per M feet in the yellow pine and larch-douglas fir timber types, and from 50c to 75c in spruce and white pine.

Slash disposal receipts represent the fee of 15c per M feet on timber cut from privately owned lands which is paid to the State for the purpose of disposing of the brush. Under the State law, timber operators have the option of doing their own slash disposal work in accordance with methods outlined by the State Forester or by paying the slash fee of 15c per M feet and let the State assume full responsibility for the work. That operators prefer to have the State do this work is indicated by the fact that the slash fee on approximately 90% of all timber cut on private lands in Western Montana is turned over to the State.

The State has developed a trained organization to handle this work and unquestionably, cut-over areas are now being left in better shape than under the former system where each operator removed the slash with little or no consideration for the young timber and reproduction left on the ground after logging.

During the past six years, the State has taken care of the slash disposal on approximately 800,000 M ft. of timber cut on privately owned lands in Western Montana. This is equivalent to about 100,000 acres of slash created during a period when logging operations were far below the pre-depression years.

Under normal market conditions, it is believed that the rate of cutting private timber will exceed by 50%, the past six years' average. While there has been a marked improvement in the condition of cut-over areas on which the State has taken care of the slash, there is yet much to be desired in securing a higher standard of slash disposal on private lands.

The present slash fee of 15c per M ft. permits of only a very small amount of brush piling. This is usually done along logging roads where the hazard from operation fires is greatest. The balance of the slash, or

about 90% of each cutting area, can receive no preparation for burning. In order to remove this slash or a sufficient amount of it to materially reduce the fire hazard, it is necessary to carefully broadcast burn it. Under perfect weather conditions, a creditable job of burning may be obtained under this system. Such weather conditions however, over a six to eight week Spring and Fall burning season, cannot be expected. Consequently, the burning of slash is frequently interrupted by climatic conditions—either too wet or too dry and windy. With the large amount of slash to remove and with the very limited funds to do it, we are naturally forced to take chances in burning which do not always turn out satisfactorily. It would be difficult to find a cutting area of any size where, in disposing of the slash, some small portion has not been blackened. These fire blackened areas, caused by slash burning, are relatively small, but they are sufficiently conspicuous and numerous to create a serious doubt as to the effectiveness of our present slash disposal system.

We are convinced that there can be but very little future improvement in the quality of slash disposal work at the present rate of 15c per M ft. If a better job is to be done, there must be more money available to do it.

The timber owners and operators in putting up 15c per M ft. to take care of the slash are now contributing more for this work than similar operators in most of the other states. In fact, this slash fee now represents a larger expenditure per acre than the owners can get for the land. So why expect an increase of slash fees from this source.

Since most of the privately owned cut-over lands will eventually go into public ownership, would it not be a good investment for the public to now contribute an additional amount for slash disposal as a means of leaving these cut-over lands in a more productive condition for a future timber crop.

STATE FOREST EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WORK CAMPS

Civilian Conservation Corps Camps were operated on the Stillwater State Forest during the summer periods of 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1936, and on the Swan River State Forest during the summer periods of 1935, 1937 and 1938.

The work done by these camps consisted of fire protection improvements, chiefly of forest road construction. Other improvements made were bridges, telephone lines, horse trails, equipment and supply buildings, lookout houses, public recreation camps, hazard reduction and other minor improvements.

The construction of these roads has also made both of these units more readily available to the general public for recreation and has resulted in a greatly increased use of the State Forests for this purpose.

These camps provided fire suppression crews for both the State and Federal forest protection agencies and they rendered effective service in fighting forest fires.

Attached is a tabulation summarizing the improvements and forest protection work done by these camps, 1933 to 1938, inclusive.

SUMMARY STATE FOREST CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS
FOREST PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT WORK—
1933 to 1938, INCLUSIVE

STILLWATER STATE FOREST CCC CAMPS		SWAN RIVER STATE FOREST CCC CAMPS		
1933—S-201, 1934—S-205, 1935, 1936—S-207		1935, 1937, 1938—S-206		
Project	Unit	Total		
Bridges, Vehicle	No.	7	6	13
Lookout Houses	No.	2	1	3
Public Camp Grounds, Toilet Bldg.	No.	8	2	10
Other Public Camp Ground Facilities ..	No.	41	10	51
Pump and Tool House	No.	1	---	1
Machine Sheds	No.	1	1	2
Signs	No.	60	---	60
Fences	Rods	960	---	960
Cess Pools	No.	1	---	1
Sewage Lines	Lin. Ft.	50	---	50
Telephone Lines	Miles	59.7	31.5	91.2*
Water Systems	No.	1	---	1
Truck Trails	Miles	56	26.5	82.5**
Horse Trails	Miles	12.7	10.5	23.2
Fighting Forest Fires	Man-days ..	3900	1283	5,183***
Fire Presuppression	Man-days ..	832	642	1,474****
Fire Hazard) roadside	Miles	5.4	---	5.4
Reduction) other	Acres	211	---	211
General Cleanup	Acres	7	---	7
Public Camp Grounds Development....	Acres	3	5.5	8.5
Range Revegetation	Acres	4.5	---	4.5
Razing Undesirable Structures.....	No.	10	---	10

* Includes 20.5 miles National Forest telephone line constructed by State Camps.

** Includes 4.3 miles National Forest roads constructed by State Camps.

*** Includes 4,201 man-days fire suppression work on National Forest Lands by State Camps.

**** Includes 362 man-days presuppression work for National Forests by State Camps.

